

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 311703Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9388
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: SERGE JOYAL: POSSIBLE "HEIR" OF DRAPEAU?

1. LOCAL MEDIA HAVE GIVEN FAIR AMOUNT OF ATTENTION LAST
COUPLE OF DAYS TO POSSIBLE ENTRY LIBERAL MP SERGE JOYAL
INTO NEXT MONTREAL MAYORALTY RACE. FURTHER SPECULATION
FUELED BY GAZETTE ARTICLE YESTERDAY INDICATING JOYAL MAY
WELL BE MAYOR DRAPEAU'S CHOICE AS SUCCESSOR.

2. LATTER ARTICLE ALSO DRAWS ATTENTION PROBABLE DISAP-
POINTMENT ALLEGED "HEIR" YVON LAMARRE WHO, AS VICE PRESIDENT
CITY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, HAS BEEN GIVEN MORE AND MORE
LIMELIGHT FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS.

3. CONSUL GENERAL HAD PRIVATE CONVERSATION YESTERDAY WITH
SENIOR OFFICE OF CITY GOVERNMENT (AND LONG-TIME FRIEND OF
DRAPEAU), WHO DENIED ACCESS TO ANY "INSIDE INFORMATION" BUT
NOTED: (A) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN GENERAL IS VERY WEAK;
(B) LAMARRE NO STRONGER THAN OTHERS AND COULD NOT PROVIDE
NECESSARY LEADERSHIP; (C) ERGO, DRAPEAU UNLIKELY ACCEPT LAMARRE
AS SUCCESSOR. WE AGREED JOYAL DOES NOT SUFFER FROM THIS DISA-
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BILITY AND IS TYPE DRAPEAU WOULD COTTON TO. SOURCE WOULD NOT
COMMENT ON WHETHER DRAPEAU PLANS RUN AGAIN (LIKE EVERYONE ELSE
HE PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW) BUT CONFIRMED SEVERAL RECENT JOYAL-
DRAPEAU MEETINGS WITH REMARK "THEY WERE ON OTHER MATTERS." TO
QUESTION WHETHER THIS TOPIC MIGHT HAVE CREPT INTO CONVERSATION
IRRESPECTIVE OF OTHER PURPOSE OF MEETING, SAID ONLY "WELL, YOU
KNOW NO MATTER WHAT BASIS PEOPLE MEET ON, SOME WILL SAY THEY HAD

OTHER ITEMS IN MIND."

4. COMMENT: IF ONE OF FACTORS INFLUENCING DRAPEAU'S CONSIDERATION OF RUNNING AGAIN IS WEAKNESS OF POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR FROM PRESENT CIVIC PARTY RANKS, JOYAL CANDIDACY (EXPECIALLY UNDER MAYOR'S AEGIS) COULD RESOLVE THAT ISSUE. AS NOTED ABOVE, JOYAL IS CLEARLY YOUNG MAN WITH GREAT (PERHAPS TOO MUCH) MORAL COURAGE AND AS INDIVIDUALS DRAPEAU AND JOYAL SHOULD UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER WELL AND BE ESSENTIALLY ON SAME SIDE OF MOST ISSUES. ON OTHER HAND, DRAPEAU HAS BEEN NOTED FOR MORE EXTREME FEDERALIST POSTURE (IF IT CAN BE SO DESCRIBED) AND JOYAL (PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF HIS DEFENSE OF LES GENS DE L'AIR AND FRIENDSHIP WITH SOME OF PQ MNA'S) IS CONSIDERED TOO OVERTLY NATIONALISTIC IN MANY QUARTERS. THUS DRAPEAU MAY WELL HAVE RESERVATIONS ON THIS POINT. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH DRAPEAU KEEPS HINTING AT RETIREMENT, HE ALSO DOES NOT CLOSE DOOR TO SUCCEEDING HIMSELF AGAIN -- WHICH WE THINK HE COULD. THUS POSSIBILITY EXISTS HE MAY HIMSELF BE SOURCE OF THIS SPECULATION, AS TACTIC OF RE-CEMENTING RELATIONSHIP WITH MONTREAL WEST-ENDERS WHO DISCONTENTED ABOUT INCREASE IN TAXES BY PRESENTING APPARENT THREAT OF A MORE NATIONALISTIC MAYOR IN BETTER TUNE WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.
HARPER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINT, CA, (JOYAL, SERGE), (DRAPEAU)
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